

What is claimed is:

1. A method of sharing attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory  
5 system, the method comprising the step of:  
generating the value of at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the user's  
attribute may be shared with other entries in a manner transparent to an application.
- 10 2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the  
step of:  
generating the value of the at least one attribute at the time the entry is  
transmitted to an application.
- 15 3. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the  
step of:  
generating the value of the at least one attribute immediately prior to the time the  
entry is transmitted to an application.
- 20 4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the step of generating further comprises the  
step of:  
using a class of service logic to generate the at least one attribute of the user.
- 25 5. A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the  
method comprising the step of:  
defining a class of service (CoS) attribute for a target entry, the CoS attribute  
including a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry

and the Template entry interact to provide an attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

6. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an LDAP  
5 subentry below the branch at which it is effective.

7. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS type being used.

10 8. The method as in claim 5, wherein the Template entry contains a list of attribute values that are shared.

9. The method as in claim 5, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the CoS  
15 Definition entry.

10. The method as in claim 5, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

11. The method as in claim 5, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template  
20 determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.

12. The method as in claim 5, further comprising the step of:  
changing an attribute value in the Template entry.

25 13. The method as in claim 12, further comprising the step of:  
automatically applying the changed attribute value to all entries that share the attribute.

14. The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

15. The method as in claim 13, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

16. An apparatus comprising:  
a directory server comprising:

10 first component configured to store a plurality of target entries;  
second component configured to facilitate sharing attributes of a first entry with other entries in a directory system; and  
third component configured to generate the value of at least one attribute of the first entry, whereby the user's attribute may be shared with other entries in a  
15 manner transparent to an application.

17. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:  
fourth component configured to generate of the at least one attribute at the  
20 time the entry is transmitted to an application.

18. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:  
fifth component configured to generate the value of the at least one  
25 attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

19. The apparatus as in claim 16, wherein the third component further comprises:  
sixth component configured to use a class of service logic to generate the

at least one attribute of the user.

20. An apparatus comprising:  
a directory server comprising:

5 first component configured to store a plurality of target entries; and  
second component configured to define a class of service (CoS) attribute  
for a target entry, the CoS attribute including a CoS Definition entry and a Template  
entry, whereby the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry interact to provide an  
attribute value to a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry  
10 and the Template entry.

21. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry is stored as an  
LDAP subentry below the branch at which it is effective.

15 22. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS Definition entry identifies a CoS  
type being used.

23. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the Template entry contains a list of  
attribute values that are shared.

20 24. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the CoS scope is defined by the DN of the  
CoS Definition entry.

25 25. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein the presence or absence of the target entry's  
CoS specifier determines whether the target entry may receive a CoS value.

26. The apparatus as in claim 20, wherein an attribute value stored in a CoS Template  
determines what value a target entry may receive as a CoS value.

27. The apparatus as in claim 20, further comprising :  
a component to change an attribute value in the Template entry.

5 28. The apparatus as in claim 27, further comprising:  
a component to automatically apply the changed attribute value to all entries that  
share the attribute.

10 29. The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to  
an entry that shares the attribute at the time the entry is transmitted to an application.

30. The apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the changed attribute values are applied to  
an entry that shares the attribute immediately prior to the time the entry is transmitted to  
an application.

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